

[7 March, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) There have been more than hundred number of technologies transferred from DRDO to private industry for commercialization. Many of these technologies are dual-use technologies for defence purposes and also for civil applications.

(c) No, Sir. There is no non-utilisation of DRDO technologies. Even in the very few cases when the technology does not mature and transform into a viable product, the efforts of development of such technology in itself gives an added knowledge base to the scientific community and adds to the knowledge bank of the laboratories for use in other developmental projects.

Induction of women officers in combat units

908 SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are examining the feasibility of inducting women officers in all walks of Army life, including combat units; and

(b) if so, the details worked out so far and the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Women officers are already being inducted in some Arms and Services in the Army like Army Air Defence, Corps of Signals & Corps of Engineers, Army Service Corps, Army Ordnance Corps, Army Education Corps, Judge Advocate General Department, Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and intelligence Corps. In addition women officers also join the Army Medical Corps, Army Dental Corps and Military Nursing Service both in Permanent Commission as well as Short Service Commission. A study on all aspects related to women officers in Armed Forces including induction in combat roles was conducted under the aegis of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC). The Study has recommended exclusion of women officers for the present in close combat roles where chances of physical contact with the enemy are high.